

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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EA-07 NEA-10 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /098 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0888

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, SF
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL : SOUTH AFRICA

REF: USUN 876

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WEO SC MEMBERS MET PM MARCH 24 TO DISCUSS CONTINGENCY REACTIONS OF GROUP IF, AS SOME REPORTS INDICATED, AFRICANS WERE PREPARING TO REJECT WESTERN DECLARATION CONCEPT AND DEMAND NEGOTIATION OF AFRICAN DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, OR TO TOUGHEN WESTERN DECLARATION DRAFT. GROUP AGREED THEY WOULD NOT CONSENT TO NEGOTIATE AFRICAN DRAFTS, BUT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF REACTIONS SHOULD AWAIT OUTCOME OF AFRICAN GROUP MEETING ON THE SUBJECT THEN IN PROCESS. SUBSEQUENTLY, AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH AMBASSADORS RAMPHUL (MAURITIUS) AND HARRIMAN
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(NIGERIA). THEY SAID AFRICAN GROUP COMPRISED SEVERAL ATTITUDES, BUT CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS TO WORK AT "IMPROVING" (STRENGTHENING) THE WESTERN DRAFT DECLARATION ELEMENTS. THEY PROMISED CONCRETE SUGGESTIONS BY MID-DAY MARCH 28. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING SC CONSULTATIONS LATE MARCH 24 (SEPTTEL),

WESTERN FIVE MET TO DISCUSS FRG AND CANADAIN INTELLIGENCE THAT AFRICAN GROUP WAS PREPARING TO REJECT THE WESTERN DRAFT DECLARATION ELEMENTS, OR AT LEAST TO COME BACK WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR TOUGHENING THEM IN UNACCEPTABLE WAYS. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION, WESTERN REPS AGREED THAT THEY WOULD NOT CONSENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AFRICANS ON THE BASIS OF THE FOUR DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTLY BEING INFORMALLY CIRCULATED. THERE WAS SOME INCLINATION IN THE GROUP TO PRESS FORWARD WITH FINAL DRAFTING STAGE ON DECLARATION TO PRODUCE SMOOTH VERSION FOR PRESENTATION AND NEGOTIATION WITH AFRICANS AND NONALIGNED.

3. THE UK JELLED CONSENSUS OF THE GROUP IN URGING THAT FINAL DRAFTING PROCESS BE HELD PENDING WORD OF THE AFRICAN REACTION; IF THEY ACCEPT THE DECLARATION CONCEPT (REPLACING THEIR RESOLUTIONS AT THIS SESSION OF THE SC), WE COULD THEN PROCEED TO FINAL DRAFTING; IF THEY REJECT OUR PLAN, WE COULD IN ANY EVENT GO AHEAD WITH OUR PROJECT.

4. GROUP GENERALLY AGREED THAT EVEN IF THE AFRICANS PROCEED WITH THEIR RESOLUTIONS, FORCING VOTE IN THE SC, THE IMMINENT PROSPECT OF SOUTH AFRICAN CONFIRMATION OF THE UNACCEPTABLE TURNHALLE SOLUTION IN NAMIBIA MAKES IT ADVISABLE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE WESTERN PLAN OF DECLARATION FOLLOWED BY WESTERN DEMARCHE AND CONTACT GROUP, IF THE SAG ULTIMATELY ACCEPTS THE IDEA. GROUP ALSO AGREED NOT TO INFORM CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AFRICANS OF INTENT TO GO AHEAD WITH WESTERN ACTIONS IN ANY EVENT PENDING OUTCOME OF THE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM.

5. FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITH WEO SC GROUP, YOUNG MET WITH AMBASSADORS HARRIMAN (NIGERIA) AND RAMPHUL (MAURITIUS), WHO REPORTED THE OUTCOME OF THE AFRICAN GROUP MEETING. HARRIMAN SAID THEY GENERALLY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD DRAW US OUT A BIT MORE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR DRAFT DECLARATION ELEMENTS. THEY FELT THE WESTERN DRAFT HAS NOT YET PROGRESSED FAR ENOUGH TO SATISFY THE GROUP. THE UPSHOT WAS A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS FOR AMENDING OR ADDING TO THE WESTERN DRAFT, WHICH NOW MUST BE COLLATED. A CONCRETE DISCUSSION OF AFRICAN VIEWS, THEREFORE, WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE MONDAY.

6. RAMPHUL EXPRESSED THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AFRICAN GROUP IN THE GOOD WILL AND GOOD FAITH OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG AND THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION. THEY STILL DOUBT

THE SINCERITY OF MOTIVATION OF THE OTHER WESTERNERS, HOWEVER. THE PRESENT DRAFT DECLARATION ELEMENTS ARE WEAK, CONSISTING MAINLY OF A COMPILATION OF PASSAGES AND REFERENCES FROM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, IN SOME CASES TRUNCATING AND GENERALIZING THE REFERENCES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO WEAKEN THEIR FORCE AND SIGNIFICANCE. RAMPHUL SAID THAT "MANY" IN THE AFRICAN GROUP ARE EAGER TO TABLE THEIR FOUR RESOLUTIONS. THEY DO NOT FEAR A SOLID THREE VETOES BECAUSE OF DEVELOPMENTS OF WHICH THEY ARE AWARE IN EUROPE (E.G., THE "DEAL" STRUCK BY THE LIBERAL PARTY WITH THE LABOR PARTY IN ENGLAND INCLUDED LABLR GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE STRONG MEASURE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA; THE LEFTWARD TREND IN FRENCH POLITICS WAS ALSO MENTIONED).

7. RAMPHUL SAID THEY DO NOT WANT THE US, WITH ITS
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HOPEFUL TURN OF POLICY, TO BE LEFT ALONE AS A RESULT OF ANY MANEUVERING. THE AFRICAN GROUP, THEREFORE, IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE WESTERN DRAFT AND COME BACK WITH A COUNTERDRAFT BY MARCH 28. RAMPHUL MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES THAT, EVEN AFTER ACHIEVING CONSENSUS AMONG AFRICANS, THEY STILL MUST DEAL WITH CHINESE AND SOVIET DISSATISFACTIONS. HARRIMAN COMMENTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOVIET"CHINESE POSITIONS ARE NOT VALID IN AFRICAN TERMS AND ARE EASILY REBUTTED. THE CHINESE AND SOVIETS, IN ANY EVENT, WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTROL THE AFRICAN RESPONSE TO THE "NOVEL"AND WELCOME INITIATIVE OF THE US AND THE WEST.

8. PRESSED FOR EXAMPLES OF THE "STRENGTHENING" THE AFRICANS FELT REQUIRED, HARRIMAN LEAFED THROUGH HIS NOTES AND POINTED TO THE WESTERN DRAFT REFERENCE TO "BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS" AND SAID THOSE SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT. APARTHEID SHOULD BE CONDEMNED IN STRONGER, MORE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE. VICTIMS OF OPPRESSION SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED SPECIFICALLY IN CLEARER TERMS. YOUNG INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK AT SUGGESTIONS OF THIS KIND, BUT URGED THAT THE CENTRAL PURPOSE OF THE DECLARATION BE BORNE IN MIND.

9. RAMPHUL SAID THEY WOULD COLLATE THE VARIOUS AMENDMENT SUGGESTIONS OF THE AFRICAN GROUP AND CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG FURTHER TOWARD MID-DAY MARCH 28. HE AND HARRIMAN INDICATED THAT THEY PREFERRED TO CONVEY THEIR VIEWS TO YOUNG FIRST, DEPENDING ON HIM THEN TO CONSULT WITH THE OTHER WESTERNERS.

10. FOR LONDON: WE WOULD BE INTERSTED IN EMBASSY'S
COMMENTS ON THE RAMPHUL REFERENCE TO A LIBERAL PARTY
"DEAL" IN PARA 6 ABOVE.

YOUNG
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Message Attributes

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